

**From:** [Carmen Assunto](#) on behalf of [R6ASK@epa.gov](mailto:R6ASK@epa.gov)  
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*(See attached file: R6 Daily News Digest 04-29-13.pdf)*

1 - Texas Lawmakers Inquire Into Plant Explosion, NBCDFW, 4/27/13

<http://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/Texas-Lawmakers-Inquire-Into-Plant-Explosion-205020601.html>

Two Texas lawmakers have launched inquiries into what oversight the state does on hazardous materials after an April 17 explosion at a fertilizer plant that killed 15 people.

2 - EPA lowered estimates of methane leaks during natural gas production, FuelFix, 4/28/13

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2013/04/28/epa-lowered-estimates-of-methane-leaks-during-natural-gas-production/?cmpid=businesshcat>

The Environmental Protection Agency has dramatically lowered its estimate of how much of a potent heat-trapping gas leaks during natural gas production, in a shift with major implications for a debate that has divided environmentalists: Does the recent boom in hydraulic fracturing help or hurt the fight against climate change?

3 - Canadian company plans \$550 million methane plant in Ascension Parish, NOLA, 4/26/13

[http://www.nola.com/business/index.ssf/2013/04/canadian\\_company\\_plans\\_550\\_mil.html#incart\\_river](http://www.nola.com/business/index.ssf/2013/04/canadian_company_plans_550_mil.html#incart_river)

GONZALES, La. (AP) -- A Canadian company is moving a second \$550 million methane plant from Chile to Louisiana.

4 - Wetland preservation veteran inspires visiting high school students, NOLA, 4/26/13

[http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2013/04/wetland\\_preservation\\_veteran\\_i.html#incart\\_river](http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2013/04/wetland_preservation_veteran_i.html#incart_river)

Perhaps no environmental activist in coastal South Louisiana better embodies the power of one than Milton Cambre. The self-appointed guardian and keeper of 12,000 acres of the LaBranche Wetlands, and the founding father of Wetland Watchers Park in Norco, Cambre for the past 50 years has fiercely championed the reclamation of St. Charles Parish's wetlands.

5 - Vitter/Boxer water bill drawing opposition after unanimous committee OK, NOLA, 4/27/13

[http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2013/04/vitterboxer\\_water\\_bill\\_drawing.html#incart\\_river](http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2013/04/vitterboxer_water_bill_drawing.html#incart_river)

Legislation drafted by Sens. David Vitter, R-La., and Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., to authorize projects and policies for the Army Corps of Engineers is running into some opposition after winning a unanimous vote last month by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

6 - Red Cross: Hundreds seek help after West plant explosion, DMN, 4/29/13

<http://www.dallasnews.com/news/west-explosion/headlines/20130429-red-cross-hundreds-seek-help-after-west-plant-explosion.ece>

WEST, Texas — Red Cross officials say nearly 300 families have visited a relief center since a deadly fertilizer plant explosion decimated a Central Texas town.

7 - Boxer Draws Rare Criticism From Environmentalists Over NEPA Reforms, InsideEPA, 4/26/13

<http://insideepa.com/201304262432357/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/boxer-draws-rare-criticism-from-environmentalists-over-nepa-reforms/menu-id-95.html>

Senate environment committee Chairwoman Barbara Boxer (D-CA), one of the environmental community's staunchest allies on Capitol Hill, is facing rare criticism from activists over her support for reforms to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) included in pending water resources legislation she crafted with her GOP counterpart.

8 - EPA Pressed On Conflict Policy After State Air Group's Contract Scrapped, InsideEPA, 4/26/13

<http://insideepa.com/201304262432446/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epa-pressed-on-conflict-policy->

[after-state-air-groups-contract-scrapped/menu-id-95.html](http://insideepa.com/201304292432499/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epa-biomass-accounting-rule-may-set-precedent-on-scope-of-air-permits/menu-id-95.html)

EPA is being urged to provide information on its role in Battelle's decision to dissolve a contract to give technical assistance to a new group of state air regulators after EPA said the contract conflicts with Battelle's work with the agency, with critics of the move saying it appears the agency "bullied" Battelle into ending the contract.

9 - EPA Biomass Accounting Rule May Set Precedent On Scope Of Air Permits, InsideEPA, 4/29/13  
<http://insideepa.com/201304292432499/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epa-biomass-accounting-rule-may-set-precedent-on-scope-of-air-permits/menu-id-95.html>

EPA's plan to issue a rule discounting greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from biomass sources could set a precedent for whether regulators must base air permit limits solely on emissions from facility smokestacks or can, for the first time, consider factors that occur outside a facility fenceline, such as sequestration of GHGs when biomass regrows.